

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 05228 120906Z

10
ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 SSO-00 VO-03 SCA-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4948
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, HK, SV
SUBJECT: SITREP--VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG

1. DOROTHY PARKER, MINORITY COUNSEL OF THE SENATE SUB-COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES AND ESCAPEES AND LONG-TIME ADVISER TO SENATOR FONG WAS IN HONG KONG MAY 7-11. CONVERSATIONS WITH HKG OFFICIALS DURING HER VISIT HELPED CLARIFY HKG'S REFUGEE POLICY. HER VISIT IS REPORTED SEPTEL.

2. CURRENT TOTAL OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HK IMMIGRATION DETENTION CAMPS IS 3,873. ON MAY 11, THERE WERE 31 NEW ARRIVALS ON BOARD TWO HONG KONG-REGISTERED FISHING BOATS AND TWO ADDITIONAL PERSONS FROM FISHING BOAT ARRIVING MAY 6 HAVE SURRENDERED VOLUNTARILY TO HKG AUTHORITIES.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE 31 REFUGEES DEPARTING FOR CANADA MAY 9 AND 11, ONE OTHER FROM THE CLARA MAERSK WHO HAD GRC PASSPORT DEPARTED FOR TAIWAN MAY 11. THREE OTHERS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY AUSTRALIA AND ARE SCHEDULED TO DEPART HONG KONG MAY 15.

4. ICEM DIRECTOR JOHN THOMAS ARRIVED FROM GUAM THIS
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PAGE 02 HONG K 05228 120906Z

MORNING AND, THOUGH HIS LOCAL OFFICE, HAS MADE RESERVATIONS

FOR GROUP OF 67 FROM SWISS AIR AND AIR AMERICA TO DEPART HONG KONG FOR GUAM MAY 13 AT 1620 HOURS. HK IMMIGRATION IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO FORCE THE TWO AIRLINES TO PICK UP THE TRANSPORTATION COSTS TO GUAM.

5. FRANCIS RUFFINEN, ASSISTANT OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE AND MOST RECENTLY RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE IN PHNOM PENH, IS ALSO IN HONG KONG DISCUSSING THE POSSIBLE IRC ROLE IN ASSISTING THE REFUGEES HERE.

6. HKG IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMED US THAT NONE OF THE 27 REFUGEES ON BOARD THE M.V. JAPAN WILL BE ALLOWED TO LAND IN HONG KONG UNLESS THEY ARE BEING TAKEN DIRECTLY TO THE AIRPORT FOR DEPARTURE. DECISION WAS BASED ON EXCELLENT LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS ON BOARD SHIP AND HONG KONG'S PROBLEM WITH CURRENT REFUGEES.

7. HENRY BEVINS, LEGAL COUNSELOR FOR AIR AMERICA, IS CURRENTLY IN HONG KONG ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE AIR AMERICA'S VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEMS HERE. HE IS MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THE SIX AIR AMERICA EMPLOYEES WHO ARRIVED ON AIR AMERICA FLIGHT APRIL 29 AND WERE SIGNED FOR BY LOCAL AIR AMERICA MANAGER. OF THE SIX, ONE HAS BEEN PERMITTED BY HKG TO REMAIN HERE WITH HER SISITER. THE OTHER FIVE ALL WISH TO GO TO US AND HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO FILE FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY AS REFUGEES. BEVINS IS APPARENTLY IN TOUCH WITH HIS WASHINGTON OFFICER, WHICH SHOULD BE ADDRESSING THIS PROBLEM WITH INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE. GETSINGER

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